

A Wartime Childhood Tutorial

a wartime childhood is a profound and often transformative experience that leaves indelible marks on those who live through it. Growing up amidst the chaos, uncertainty, and resilience required during times of war shapes not only individual lives but also entire communities. This article explores the various facets of a wartime childhood, including daily life challenges, adaptations, emotional impacts, and the lasting legacy it leaves on individuals and society.

Understanding Wartime Childhood

Defining Wartime Childhood

A wartime childhood refers to the period of youth experienced during times of armed conflict, typically involving global or regional wars such as World War I and II, the Vietnam War, or more recent conflicts. Children in these periods often face unique hardships, including displacement, trauma, and disruptions to education and social life.

The Significance of Childhood During War

Childhood is a formative phase characterized by learning, exploration, and social development. War disrupts this natural progression, forcing children to adapt quickly to dangerous and unstable environments. Despite these hardships, many children demonstrate remarkable resilience, finding ways to maintain hope and normalcy amidst chaos.

Daily Life Challenges for Children in Wartime

Disruption of Education

One of the most immediate impacts of war on children is the interruption of their education. Schools may be damaged, repurposed for military use, or completely shut down due to safety concerns. Children often miss critical years of learning, which can have long-term consequences on their futures.

- Learning in makeshift or underground schools
- Limited access to educational materials
- Loss of routine and structure

Displacement and Loss of Home

Many children become refugees or internally displaced persons, fleeing their homes to escape violence. This displacement results in loss of possessions, community, and stability. Children often have to adapt to new environments with unfamiliar languages, cultures, and hardships.

Food and Healthcare Scarcity

War severely impacts supply chains, leading to shortages of food, clean water, and medical supplies. Malnutrition and disease become common threats, especially for vulnerable children. Access to healthcare may be limited, exacerbating health issues.

Fear and Psychological Stress

Children are highly sensitive to the emotional climate around them. Constant air raids, bombings, or military presence induce fear and anxiety. Many children develop symptoms of trauma, including nightmares, hypervigilance, and emotional withdrawal.

Adaptations and Coping Mechanisms

Community and Family Support

In the face of adversity, families and communities often band together to provide emotional support and practical assistance. Shared experiences foster a sense of solidarity, which helps children cope with their circumstances.

Play and Creativity as Resilience Tools

Despite the bleak environment, children find solace in play, art, and storytelling. These activities serve as outlets for expression and help maintain a sense of normalcy.

- Playing makeshift games with available materials
- Engaging in storytelling to preserve cultural identity
- Creating art to process emotions

Maintaining Hope and Normalcy

Children often cling to routines or hopes for peace, which serve as mental anchors amidst chaos. Education, religious practices, and cultural traditions help sustain a sense of identity and purpose.

Emotional and Psychological Impacts

Trauma and Post-War Psychological Effects

Many wartime children experience lasting psychological scars, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and anxiety. These effects can persist into adulthood, influencing their life choices and relationships.

Resilience and Growth

On the positive side, some children develop extraordinary resilience, acquiring skills such as adaptability, empathy, and resourcefulness. Wartime experiences often foster a deep understanding of human fragility and strength.

Intergenerational Influence

The psychological impact of wartime childhood can be transmitted across generations, influencing parenting styles, community mental health, and collective memory.

The Legacy of a Wartime Childhood

Personal Narratives and Historical Memory

Stories from wartime children serve as vital testimonies, preserving history and fostering empathy. Memoirs, oral histories, and documentaries help future generations understand the human cost of conflict.

Resilience and Post-War Contributions

Many individuals who experienced wartime childhoods grow up to become advocates for peace, social justice, and humanitarian causes, channeling their experiences into positive change.

Lessons Learned

The hardships endured during wartime childhood underscore the importance of protecting children during conflicts. It emphasizes the need for international efforts to safeguard their rights and well-being.

Conclusion

A wartime childhood is a complex tapestry woven from hardship, resilience, and hope. While war imposes significant challenges—disrupting education, displacing families, and inflicting psychological scars—it also reveals the incredible strength of children and communities. Their stories remind us of

the importance of peace and the enduring human spirit that persists even in the darkest times. Understanding and honoring these experiences not only preserves history but also inspires efforts to create a safer, more compassionate world for future generations.

A Wartime Childhood: Navigating Innocence Amidst Conflict

Growing up during wartime presents a unique and often profound set of experiences that shape individuals in ways peace-time childhoods rarely do. The phrase "a wartime childhood" evokes images of resilience amid hardship, the loss of innocence, and the forging of identity in the shadow of conflict. Understanding this period involves exploring not only the external circumstances faced by children but also the internal emotional landscapes they traverse. This guide aims to unpack the complexities of a wartime childhood, highlighting historical contexts, personal narratives, psychological impacts, and lessons learned from those who experienced it firsthand.

Understanding the Context of a Wartime Childhood

Historical Background

A wartime childhood typically refers to the period during which children grow up amid active conflict, whether during world wars, regional conflicts, or civil wars. Significant events that define this era include:

- World War I and II: Major global conflicts that affected millions of children across Europe, Asia, Africa, and beyond.
- Civil Wars and Regional Conflicts: Such as the Vietnam War, the Nigerian Civil War, and more recent conflicts in the Middle East and Africa.
- Economic and Social Disruptions: Wartime often leads to disruptions in education, healthcare, and family stability.

Children's experiences during these periods are shaped by factors such as geographic location, social class, family circumstances, and the duration and intensity of conflict.

The Impact of War on Society and the Family

War transforms entire societies, and children are no exception. Family structures are often strained or broken, communities are fragmented, and daily routines are upended. Key societal impacts include:

- Displacement and refugee crises.

- Loss of loved ones and community members.
- Scarcity of resources such as food, medicine, and education.
- Exposure to violence, bombings, and war-related trauma.

The Personal Experience of a Wartime Childhood

Daily Life and Survival

For many children, a wartime childhood involves learning to adapt quickly to dangerous circumstances. Common aspects include:

- Living with uncertainty: The constant threat of bombings or attacks.
- Resourcefulness: Finding creative ways to obtain food, clothing, and safety.
- Disrupted education: Schools may close or be repurposed as shelters or military sites.
- Community support: Relying on neighbors, extended family, or local organizations for support.

Examples of daily routines may involve:

- Hiding in shelters during air raids.
- Foraging for food or rationing supplies.
- Participating in civil defense efforts or volunteer work.
- Maintaining a semblance of childhood through play and storytelling despite hardships.

Psychological and Emotional Challenges

Children exposed to war often face profound psychological impacts, including:

- Fear and Anxiety: Constant concern for safety and loved ones.
- Grief and Loss: Mourning the death or disappearance of family members.
- Trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD): Re-experiencing violent events or living in chronic stress.
- Resilience and Adaptability: Many develop remarkable coping mechanisms and a sense of hope.

Understanding these emotional responses is crucial in recognizing the resilience and vulnerabilities of wartime children.

Stories and Narratives from Wartime Childhoods

Personal Testimonies and Memoirs

Personal stories offer invaluable insights into the realities of growing up during conflict. For example:

- Children in London during the Blitz recount nights spent in air raid shelters, developing a sense of camaraderie despite fear.
- Vietnamese children during the Vietnam War recall enduring bombings and aiding in wartime efforts.
- Children in war zones today describe navigating schools, homes, and communities torn apart by ongoing violence.

These narratives highlight themes of innocence, resilience, loss, and hope.

Common Themes in Wartime Childhood Stories

- Loss of innocence: Exposure to violence often accelerates maturity.
- Community solidarity: Shared hardships foster close bonds.
- Adaptation and resilience: Children often become resourceful and emotionally resilient.
- Dreams and aspirations: Despite adversity, many children maintain hopes for a peaceful future.

Psychological and Long-term Effects

Impact on Mental Health

Research indicates that wartime experiences can have lasting effects, including:

- Increased risk of depression, anxiety, and PTSD.
- Difficulties in trust and forming relationships later in life.
- Educational disruptions leading to limited career opportunities.

Post-War Adjustment

Many individuals who grew up during wartime exhibit remarkable resilience, often channeling their experiences into activism, community service, or creative pursuits. Others may struggle with trauma for years or decades.

Support systems such as therapy, community programs, and education play vital roles in healing and integration.

Lessons Learned from a Wartime Childhood

The Power of Resilience and Hope

Stories from wartime children underscore the importance of resilience. Despite overwhelming odds, many:

- Maintain hope for peace.
- Build strong community bonds.
- Develop a profound appreciation for life's simple pleasures.

The Importance of Memory and History

Preserving stories of wartime childhoods helps future generations understand the human cost of conflict, fostering empathy and the desire for peace.

The Role of Education and Support

Ensuring access to education and psychological support is critical in helping children recover and thrive post-conflict.

How Society Can Support Children in Conflict Zones

- Providing psychological services: Trauma counseling and mental health support.
- Ensuring access to education: Safe schools and learning materials.
- Supporting families: Economic aid and social services.
- Advocating for peace: Diplomatic efforts to prevent conflicts and protect vulnerable populations.

Final Reflection: The Enduring Spirit of Wartime Children

A "wartime childhood" is marked by hardship but also by extraordinary resilience. It teaches us about the capacity of children to adapt, hope, and find meaning even amid chaos. Recognizing their experiences is vital in fostering a more compassionate and peaceful world, ensuring that future generations can learn from the past and work toward a future free of conflict.

In conclusion, understanding a wartime childhood requires a multifaceted approach ? exploring historical contexts, personal stories, psychological impacts, and societal lessons. While conflict leaves scars, it also reveals the indomitable spirit of children who, despite everything, strive to find joy, purpose, and hope for a better tomorrow.

QuestionAnswer How did childhood during wartime differ from peacetime childhood? Childhood during wartime often involved rationing, limited resources, and disrupted education, whereas peacetime childhood typically offers more stability, access to education, and recreational activities. What emotional challenges did children face during wartime? Children often experienced fear, anxiety, loss of loved ones, and uncertainty about the future, which could lead to long-term emotional and psychological effects. How did wartime affect children's education and schooling? Many children faced school closures, interruptions, or attended makeshift classrooms, impacting their learning and development due to resource shortages and safety concerns. In what ways did children contribute to the war effort during wartime? Children contributed by collecting scrap materials, participating in war bond drives, growing victory gardens, and in some cases, taking on responsibilities at home or in factories. What are some personal stories or memoirs that depict childhood during war? Numerous memoirs, such as Anne Frank's diary or wartime accounts from children in conflict zones, offer personal insights into the hardships and resilience experienced during wartime childhoods. How has the portrayal of wartime childhood changed in media and literature over time? Initially often depicted with a focus on suffering and loss, modern portrayals tend to explore themes of resilience, hope, and the impact of war on innocence, reflecting a more nuanced perspective.

Related keywords: war, childhood, war years, childhood memories, wartime experiences, family life, scarcity, resilience, childhood innocence, home front

AN INTRODUCTION TO CHILDHOOD ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERS

An Introduction to Childhood Anthropological Perspectives

Understanding childhood from an anthropological perspective offers a fascinating glimpse into how different societies perceive, treat, and understand children. An introduction to childhood anthropological perspectives explores how cultures interpret childhood as a social construct, a developmental stage, and a unique phase of human life shaped by historical, cultural, and societal influences. This approach goes beyond viewing childhood merely as a biological or psychological phase, emphasizing the importance of cultural context in defining childhood experiences, roles, and expectations. By examining childhood through an anthropological lens, researchers can uncover the diverse ways in which societies shape children's lives, rights, and identities across time and space.

What Is Childhood Anthropology?

Childhood anthropology is a subfield of cultural anthropology that studies the social and cultural

construction of childhood. It examines how different societies perceive childhood, what roles children play within their communities, and how cultural values influence childhood experiences. Unlike biological or developmental psychology, which tends to focus on individual growth and development, childhood anthropology emphasizes the importance of societal norms, traditions, and cultural practices in shaping childhood.

The Evolution of Childhood as a Cultural Concept

Childhood is not a universal experience but varies significantly across cultures and historical periods. In some societies, childhood is regarded as a distinct phase with specific rights and responsibilities, while in others, children are integrated into adult roles earlier or are viewed differently based on cultural expectations. Understanding this variability is fundamental to appreciating the diversity of childhood experiences globally.

Key Questions in Childhood Anthropology

- How do different cultures define childhood?
- What roles do children play in their communities?
- How are childhood experiences influenced by social, economic, and political factors?
- How have concepts of childhood changed over time?

Core Concepts in Childhood Anthropological Perspectives

Several core concepts underpin the anthropological study of childhood, helping to frame how researchers analyze childhood in various cultural contexts.

Childhood as a Cultural Construct

This concept emphasizes that childhood is not solely biological but shaped by cultural beliefs, practices, and societal values. For example, in some cultures, children are seen as miniature adults, expected to participate in work and social responsibilities from a young age, while in others, childhood is protected and extended into later years.

Childhood and Socialization

Socialization refers to the process through which children learn norms, values, behaviors, and roles appropriate to their society. Anthropologists explore how different cultures socialize children and what kinds of knowledge and skills are prioritized.

Childhood and Power Dynamics

Children's roles and rights are also shaped by power relations within a society. Anthropologists investigate how authority is exercised over children and how children might resist or negotiate their positions.

Methods and Approaches in Childhood Anthropology

Research in childhood anthropology employs diverse methods to understand children's lives within their cultural contexts.

Ethnography

Long-term participant observation allows anthropologists to immerse themselves in children's daily lives, observing interactions, routines, and social norms firsthand.

Interviews and Life Histories

Conducting interviews with children, parents, teachers, and community members provides insights into perceptions of childhood and children's roles.

Visual and Participatory Methods

Using photographs, drawings, and participatory activities enables children to express their perspectives directly.

Major Themes in Childhood Anthropological Studies

Several key themes emerge when analyzing childhood from an anthropological perspective.

Cultural Variations in Childhood

Different societies have unique notions of childhood, influencing everything from children's responsibilities to their rights. For example:

- Western societies often see childhood as a protected, formative period.
- In some African and Asian cultures, children are expected to contribute to household chores early on.
- In Indigenous communities, childhood may involve initiation rites and community-based learning experiences.

Childhood and Education

Educational practices, formal and informal, vary widely. Anthropologists study how cultural values shape educational priorities and access for children.

Childhood and Play

Play is vital for development, but the types of play and their significance differ across cultures. Some societies emphasize competitive sports, others focus on storytelling and rituals.

Childhood and Rights

The recognition of children's rights, such as protection from exploitation and access to education, is a relatively modern development. Anthropologists examine how these rights are understood and implemented in different contexts.

Historical Perspectives on Childhood

Understanding how concepts of childhood have evolved over time is crucial for contextualizing current beliefs and practices.

Juvenile Innocence and Protection

Historically, Western societies in the 17th and 18th centuries began to view childhood as a period of innocence requiring protection and nurturing, leading to the development of child labor laws and compulsory schooling.

Childhood in Pre-Industrial Societies

Prior to industrialization, children often participated actively in economic production, and childhood was less distinguished from adulthood.

Modern Perspectives

Today, childhood is often associated with rights, education, and protection, though these ideals are not universally realized.

Challenges and Future Directions in Childhood Anthropology

As societies continue to change rapidly due to globalization, migration, and technological advances, childhood anthropologists face new challenges and opportunities.

Globalization and Cultural Change

Global influences can alter traditional childhood practices, sometimes leading to cultural clashes or hybrid practices.

Children's Rights and Advocacy

Increasing recognition of children's rights prompts anthropologists to study how these rights are enacted and contested in different contexts.

Technological Impact

Digital media and technology are transforming childhood experiences worldwide, raising questions about development, safety, and cultural continuity.

Conclusion

An introduction to childhood anthropological perspectives reveals the profound influence of culture, history, and social structure on how societies understand and treat children. Recognizing childhood as a complex, culturally constructed phase enables a richer understanding of human diversity and promotes respect for varied childhood experiences worldwide. As the field advances, it continues to shed light on the importance of respecting children's rights, understanding cultural differences, and appreciating the dynamic nature of childhood across different societies and historical periods. Embracing this perspective not only enhances academic knowledge but also informs policies and practices aimed at improving the lives of children globally.

An Introduction to Childhood Anthropological Perspectives

Understanding childhood goes beyond observing children's behaviors; it involves delving into how different cultures, societies, and historical contexts shape the very essence of childhood. An anthropological perspective on childhood offers profound insights into how childhood is experienced, constructed, and valued across diverse communities worldwide. This approach examines childhood not merely as a biological stage but as a socially and culturally embedded phase of life, influenced by myriad factors ranging from societal norms to economic conditions. In this article, we explore the core concepts, historical evolution, methodologies, and contemporary debates within childhood anthropology, providing a comprehensive yet accessible overview for readers interested in this dynamic field.

What is Childhood Anthropology?

Childhood anthropology is a subfield of cultural anthropology that focuses on understanding childhood as a social construct. Unlike biomedical or developmental views that primarily see childhood through the lens of growth and maturation, anthropologists emphasize how societies

define, interpret, and value childhood. This perspective recognizes that childhood is not universal; it varies significantly across different cultures and historical periods.

Key Aspects of Childhood Anthropology:

- **Cultural Construction:** Childhood is shaped by societal beliefs, values, and practices. For example, in some societies, children are seen as miniature adults, expected to participate actively in economic or familial roles from an early age.
- **Relational Nature:** Childhood is understood relationally?how children relate to their families, communities, and the broader society influences their experiences.
- **Power and Agency:** Anthropologists explore issues of agency, agency, and power dynamics?how children influence their environments and are influenced by societal expectations.
- **Historical Variability:** The concept of childhood has evolved over time, reflecting changes in economic systems, political ideologies, and cultural values.

By adopting this lens, childhood anthropology challenges universal assumptions and highlights the diversity of childhood experiences globally.

The Evolution of Childhood Studies in Anthropology

Historically, the study of childhood in anthropology has undergone significant shifts. Early 20th-century anthropologists often viewed childhood as a natural, biological stage, with less emphasis on cultural variations. Over time, scholars recognized that childhood was deeply shaped by social and cultural contexts, leading to more nuanced, interpretive approaches.

Historical Milestones:

- **Early 20th Century:** Focus on biological and evolutionary perspectives; childhood seen as a universal, biological stage.
- **Mid-20th Century:** Introduction of cross-cultural studies; acknowledgment of cultural differences in childhood experiences.
- **Late 20th Century:** Rise of symbolic and interpretive anthropology; emphasis on childhood as a social construction.
- **21st Century:** Focus on children?s agency, rights, and participation; integration of interdisciplinary approaches.

Prominent figures like Margaret Mead and David Lancy have contributed foundational ideas?Mead?s studies of adolescence in Samoa challenged Western notions of developmental universality, while Lancy?s ethnographic work emphasizes the variability of childhood practices.

Key Shifts in Focus:

- Moving from adult-centered perspectives to valuing children's perspectives.
- Recognizing the importance of children's agency and voice.
- Examining how globalization influences childhood experiences.

These shifts have expanded the scope of childhood anthropology, making it more inclusive and reflective of diverse realities.

Core Concepts in Childhood Anthropology

Understanding the field's foundational ideas is crucial. Several core concepts shape how anthropologists analyze childhood:

- Social Construction of Childhood

Childhood is not merely biological but is constructed through social norms, cultural beliefs, and institutional practices. For example, the age at which a child is considered an adult varies across societies—from 7 in some cultures to 18 or older elsewhere.

- Cultural Variability

Practices and perceptions of childhood differ markedly worldwide. Some societies prioritize formal education, while others emphasize apprenticeship and hands-on learning. Rituals marking childhood transitions are also culturally specific.

- Childhood as a Social Category

Children are categorized differently depending on societal context—distinguishing between 'child,' 'adolescent,' or 'pre-adult' can influence legal rights, social responsibilities, and expectations.

- Agency and Voice

Contemporary anthropological work emphasizes children's capacity for agency—how they navigate, influence, and sometimes resist societal expectations.

- Rights and Protection

The recognition of children's rights, such as those articulated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, influences how childhood is understood and protected globally.

Methodologies in Childhood Anthropology

Research in childhood anthropology employs diverse, often innovative methods to capture children's lived experiences and societal contexts.

Qualitative Approaches:

- Ethnography: Embedding within communities to observe children's daily lives and cultural practices.
- Participant Observation: Engaging with children in their environments to understand social interactions.
- Interviews and Storytelling: Gathering children's perspectives directly, respecting their agency and voice.
- Visual Methods: Using photographs, drawings, or videos to explore children's viewpoints.

Challenges in Research:

- Ethical considerations regarding consent and protection.
- Power dynamics between adult researchers and child participants.
- Ensuring that children's voices are authentically represented.

Innovative Techniques:

- Child-led research projects.
- Participatory methods that involve children in designing studies.
- Digital ethnography, especially in studying children's online activities.

These methodologies aim to give children an active role in research, recognizing them as capable social actors.

Contemporary Debates and Challenges

The field of childhood anthropology is vibrant, with ongoing debates shaping its direction.

- Universalism vs. Cultural Relativism

Should childhood be understood through universal principles or cultural specificity? While some argue for universal rights, others emphasize respecting local practices and definitions of childhood.

- Childhood and Development

How do notions of developmental stages influence societal expectations? There is concern that Western developmental models may impose inappropriate standards on children worldwide.

- Children's Rights and Agency

Balancing protection with empowerment remains complex. While advocating for children's rights, anthropologists recognize children's capacity for agency and decision-making.

- Digital Age and Childhood

The rise of digital technology profoundly impacts childhood experiences, raising questions about online safety, digital literacy, and the changing nature of socialization.

- Globalization and Migration

Increasing migration and transnational connections reshape childhood experiences, often exposing children to multiple cultural influences.

- Policy and Practice

Applying anthropological insights to inform policies that are culturally sensitive and effective remains an ongoing challenge.

Why Childhood Anthropology Matters

Understanding childhood through an anthropological lens is vital for several reasons:

- Promotes Cultural Sensitivity: Recognizes the diversity of childhood experiences and challenges

ethnocentric assumptions.

- Informs Policy: Provides insights that can lead to culturally appropriate interventions and programs.
- Empowers Children: Elevates children's voices and agency in social and political spheres.
- Enhances Intergenerational Understanding: Bridges gaps between adults and children, fostering mutual respect and understanding.
- Contributes to Human Rights: Frames childhood as a fundamental human experience deserving of dignity and protection.

Conclusion

An introduction to childhood anthropological perspectives reveals a field rich with complexity, diversity, and vital insights. Moving beyond simplistic, universal notions, anthropologists explore how childhood is a dynamic social construct deeply embedded in cultural, economic, and political contexts. This approach not only broadens our understanding of what it means to be a child but also informs policies and practices that respect children's rights and agency worldwide. As societies continue to evolve amid globalization and technological change, the importance of childhood anthropology in shaping a more inclusive and understanding world cannot be overstated.

Question What is childhood anthropological perspective? Childhood anthropological perspective is an approach that studies childhood as a social and cultural construct, examining how different societies understand, experience, and shape childhood across various contexts. **Why is it important to study childhood from an anthropological standpoint?** Studying childhood anthropologically helps us understand the diversity of childhood experiences worldwide, challenges universal assumptions, and highlights how culture, society, and history influence childhood development and rights. **How does childhood vary across different cultures?** Childhood varies significantly across cultures in terms of roles, expectations, responsibilities, and rites of passage, reflecting differing social values and norms about age, maturity, and family structure. **What role do rituals and rites of passage play in childhood?** Rituals and rites of passage mark important transitions in a child's life, such as initiation, coming of age, or adulthood, serving to socialize children into their cultural roles and reinforce societal values. **How do economic factors influence childhood experiences globally?** Economic factors impact access to education, healthcare, and leisure, shaping childhood experiences differently in affluent versus impoverished contexts and influencing opportunities and vulnerabilities. **What is the significance of play in childhood anthropological studies?** Play is seen as a vital part of childhood development and socialization, reflecting cultural values, fostering skills, and serving as a medium for transmitting societal norms. **How do anthropologists approach the concept of childhood rights?** Anthropologists examine how different societies recognize and uphold children's rights, considering cultural definitions of childhood, autonomy, and the responsibilities of children within their communities. **In what ways has globalization impacted childhood experiences?** Globalization has influenced childhood by spreading cultural norms, technology, and consumerism, which can both challenge traditional childhood

practices and create new opportunities for children worldwide. How do gender roles influence childhood experiences from an anthropological perspective? Gender roles shape childhood experiences by assigning different expectations, responsibilities, and opportunities to boys and girls, thereby influencing their socialization and development. What are some current research trends in childhood anthropology? Current trends include studying digital childhood, the impact of migration, resilience in adverse environments, and the intersection of childhood with issues like climate change and human rights.

Related keywords: childhood development, cultural anthropology, children's rights, socialization, childhood studies, kinship systems, cross-cultural childhood, ethnography of childhood, childhood perceptions, childhood and society

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